

September 19, 2008

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-447-5400 ext. 286
F: 817-447-6885
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com



Richard Crummel, Ronnie Johnson, Sheryl Kappus, Mark Jackson, Judy Arnold, Paul Cain, Ken Shetter, Justin Bond and Dan-O Strong.

The board is full.

With the appointment of the community-at-large members, the Burleson Opportunity Fund board of directors is now complete. The community members include Dan-O Strong, president of the Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce; Justin Bond, public affairs

supervisor for Chesapeake Energy Corporation; and Tim Southerland, president of the Burleson market for Community Bank. The remaining board members include Ronnie Johnson, president of the Burleson Independent School District board of trustees; Dr. Mark Jackson, superintendent of the BISD; Richard Crummel, executive director of learning supports and public relations for the BISD; Ken Shetter, mayor of the City of Burleson; Curtis E. Hawk, city manager of the City of Burleson; Paul Cain, deputy city manager of the City of Burleson; Dr. Sheryl Kappus, president of Hill College; and Judy Arnold, Burleson campus coordinator for Texas Wesleyan University.

Burleson Opportunity Fund staff support includes Lana Perkins, coordinator of advanced academics and the Burleson Opportunity Fund for the BISD; Nancy Holland, associate dean, Hill College at Burleson; and Kellye Cunningham, management assistant for the City of Burleson.

In the inaugural year, 27 high school graduates accepted a

Kellye Cunningham, Lana Perkins and Nancy Holland.



financial boost for college thanks to the Burleson Opportunity Fund. More than \$80,000 was donated to the Burleson Opportunity Fund by community groups and businesses as well as the City of Burleson, Hill College, and the Burleson Independent School District. The scholarships, which cover tuition and fees, fund 32 credit hours per student. Recipients must take a minimum of 12 hours per semester.

The goal is to be able to build a scholarship fund that would guarantee two years' tuition to any Burleson resident who has graduated from an accredited high school or home school association who wants to attend Hill College. Those scholarship recipients must maintain a satisfactory grade point average to retain their scholarship eligibility and must apply for federal financial aid (via the FAFSA) to be eligible for the Burleson Opportunity Fund scholarship.

The plan, which is part of the City of Burleson's Strengthening Families Initiative, is right on track toward the goal of starting modestly by granting a few scholarships to members of the 2007-2008 graduating class, then, in a few years, ensuring that every Burleson student graduating from high school has access to at least a community college education.

The endowment was discussed by SFI representatives from education, social service, city government, healthcare and faith based institutions in early 2007. The formal launch of the Burleson Opportunity Fund took place at Burleson High School in April 2008. The scholarships were awarded in June. The scholarship winners were treated to an orientation and luncheon Aug. 11 at Burleson's Hill College campus.

Contributions to the Burleson Opportunity Fund are tax deductible. Currently, checks should be made payable to City of Burleson with Burleson Opportunity Fund in the memo line. The City has a dedicated line item set up while the 501©3 non-profit designation is being established.

For more information about the scholarship fund, call Kellye Cunningham at 817-447-5400, ext. 245. For more information about this release, call the public information officer at 817-447-5400, ext. 286.